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# Bangalore Mirror

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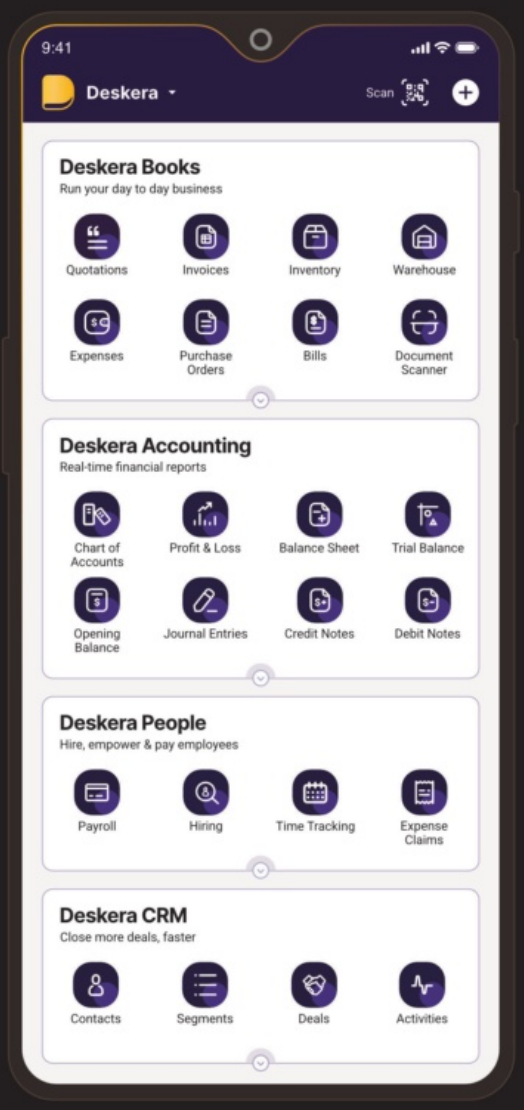


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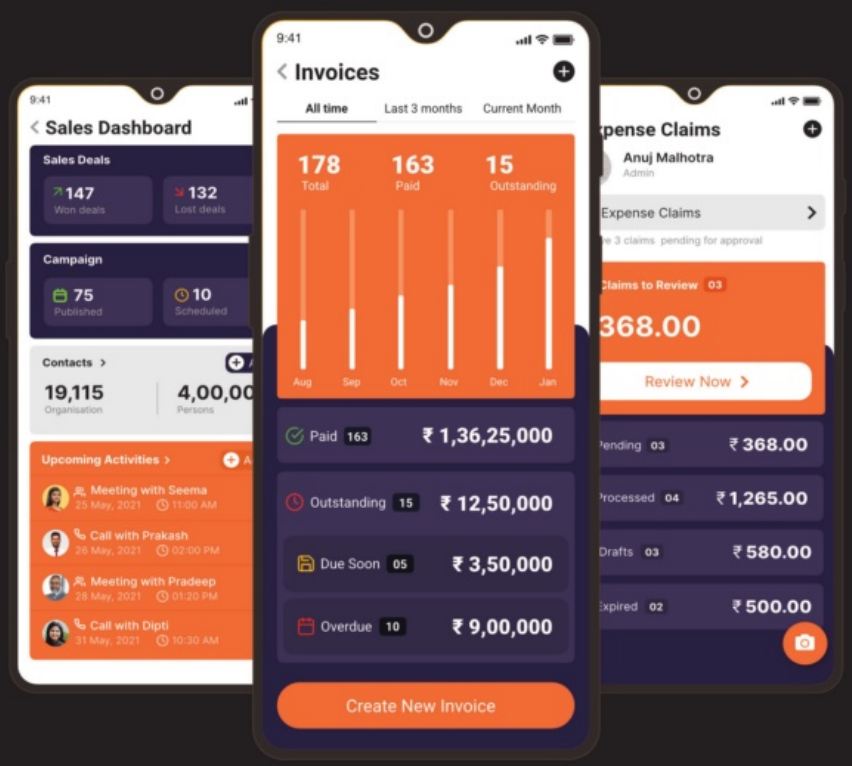


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## As monsoon overwhelms urban infra, Bengaluru is not spared of constant digging — now recently white-topped Sampige Road is cut open

# DIG ECONOMY

### BBMP had spent ₹15 crore concretising road

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Just a few months ago, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) spent crores of rupees white-topping Sampige Road. White-topping of the road drew a lot of criticism from residents, businessmen and civic activists at the time.

The white-topped road was meant for long-term durability; it was agreed that after the procedure is completed, no agency is supposed to dig the stretch for any purpose.

Moreover, the BBMP is authorised to file a criminal complaint or penalise any civic agency that digs up the recently white-topped road.

Now, what could one (the citizen) possibly do if the BBMP itself starts digging the road again? And exactly the aforementioned happened in the case of Sampige Road.

Residents along the road and activists were shocked to see the BBMP engaging a contractor to cut concrete slabs laid along the stretch. Mind you, the road was only thrown open to the public a few months ago.

"I was shocked to see workers cutting concrete blocks on Sampige Road. I am not against strengthening a stormwater drain but it should have been taken up before

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

> "I don't know what material contractor will use to fill portion of road that was cut open to strengthen a drain
>
> — Anoop Iyengar, resident

# Alone together

### Experts point to exhaustion, long commute, less family and recreation time, unemployment, as deaths by suicide spike in Bengaluru

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Bengaluru is among the top three cities in the country in deaths by suicide, National Health Profile report said. According to the report, the number of deaths by suicide among males in Bengaluru in 2019 was the third highest in the country. The city recorded as many as 1,424 suicide deaths of males of all ages; Bengaluru is only behind Chennai (1,827) and Delhi (1,693).

When it comes to suicide deaths among females, Bengaluru is in the second spot among 53 cities. In 2019, the IT city recorded 655 female deaths by suicide, the first being Delhi with 730 deaths.

Mental health care experts felt urban stress factors are quite high in Bengaluru. They are of the view that exhaustive schedules, long commuting time, less family and recreation time, unemployment and career-related issues are some of the reasons driving many towards taking the extreme step.

Experts are of the view that majority of the people who commit or attempt suicide are depressed.

"Living in busy cities like Bengaluru increases your risk of having depression and anxiety. Lack of community support,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

## 4 THINGS TO DO

### 01 Rapper Brodha V live!

For the first time since the pandemic, rapper Brodha V is going to perform live in the city. Do not miss it if you love a good blend of rap and Indian classical music.
**When: July 23, 8 pm**
**Where: Gylt Bengaluru, Hennur;**
**Tickets: Skillboxes**

### 02 Laughter trip

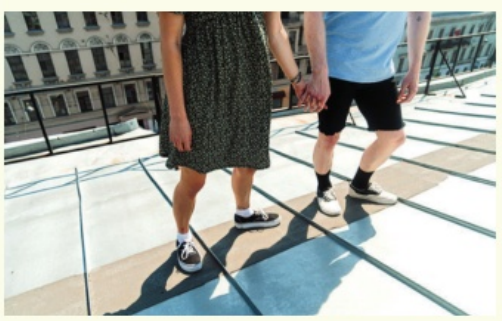
If you are looking for a laughter trip, then this event is for you. The show features some of the funniest in town including Shankar Chugani, Arnav Rao and many more.
**When: July 20, 8 pm; Where: Cafe Azzure, HSR layout; Tickets: bookmyshow.com**

### 03 Bon jour Bengaluru

Enjoy delicious French pastries and learn to make pastry and culinary dishes with professional chefs. It will be a day full of sweet treats.
**When: July 23, 11 am onwards**
**Where: Academy of pastry and culinary arts**
**Tickets: bookmyshow.com**

### 04 Walking tour

Enjoy an authentic and refreshing walking tour of the city. The tour will give you a glimpse of the city's history and culture.
**When: Till July 21, 6:30 pm**
**Where: Cafe Day Square, Vittal Mallya Road**
**Tickets: Free**



# Flu shots missed, city catches bug this year

## Hospitals receiving 30-40 OPD cases a day; diarrhoea, vomiting, headache, sore throat, body pain, fever, headache, cough, among common symptoms

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After being nonexistent for a year, the influenza cases are back and the hospitals have been seeing an uptick in the number of cases in July.

The hospitals are reporting over 30-40 OPD cases of influenza cases. Influenza is an infectious disease caused by the influenza virus. The hospitals, on the contrary, reported very few cases last year as compared to this year.

Symptoms range from mild to severe and often include fever, running nose, sore throat, muscle pain, headache, coughing, and fatigue.

The symptoms start from one to four days after exposure to the virus (typically two days) and last for about eight days. Diarrhoea and vomiting can occur, particularly in children.

Influenza may progress to pneumonia, which can be caused by the virus or by a subsequent bacterial infection.

Most of the patients being reported are getting into a severe stage, informed the health professionals, especially the elderly people and the ones who have comorbidities.

Dr Mahesh Kumar, Consultant, Internal Medicine of Narayana Health City said, "In the last two to three weeks there has been over 50% rise in influenza cases in Bangalore and the symptoms are much more prolonged and severe. We are seeing 40 patients every day on average and out of them, six are being admitted. Senior citizens with heart conditions and diabetes are most affected with high admission rates due to dropping in oxygen. Erratic monsoon and Aphelion phenomenon has led to a drastic drop in temperature and is the key reason for the rise in these cases."

**Doctors say that the symptoms start from one to four days after the exposure and last for two to eight days**

One of the reasons the doctors stated for the rise in infections was people delaying taking the influenza shots.

Dr Brunda MS, Consultant - Internal Medicine, Aster CMI Hospital said, "We are seeing a rise in influenza cases. Seasonal influenza is an acute respiratory infection caused by influenza viruses (A, B, C and D). Every day, we have been witnessing 3-4 patients since the start of the monsoon. One of the reasons for the rise in the cases could be people missing influenza shots. All adults and children must take the influenza vaccine."

> **"Since the symptoms of the flue are similar to that of covid-19, we usually recommend a rapid antigen test to confirm**
> – Dr Brunda MS, Aster CMI

He further informed that it is one of the best ways to protect oneself from the flu. It offers about 60% protection against the flu.

"Usually, the symptoms can last 2 or more weeks. Since the symptoms are similar to that of Covid, we usually recommend a rapid antigen test to confirm," he added.

Dr Dayanand Yaligar Consultant Physician, Apollo Clinic, Electronic City, Bangalore pointed out that elderly people with risk factors like asthma, cardiac elements, and diarrhoea have resulted in severe cases.

The elderly may feel weak for a long time even after symptoms go away. "Avoid large crowds, Wash your hands regularly, Strengthen your immune system, get an annual flu vaccination, clean and disinfect surfaces and visit the doctor if flu symptoms arise," he said.

# NEET was a mixed bag: Students

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET-UG) 2022 was held on Sunday, July 17 in over 3500 centres across the country and abroad. The exam was conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA).

The candidate who appeared for the exam said that the question paper was of moderate difficulty level.

Aarush Y, a medical aspirant told Bangalore Mirror "Botany part was a bit lengthy though not very difficult. For me, the most difficult part of the question paper was Physics, as we had expected. All the questions were from the NCERT syllabus only."

NEET(UG), which selects students for undergraduate medical courses, is said to be India's biggest entrance exam. Over 18 lakh students had registered for this year's paper. Out of the 18.72 lakh candidates, over 10.64 lakh were women and 8.07 lakh were men.

Mohammed Afnan, another student said that the exam was pretty easy as compared to the expectations. "The paper was easy for the most part. It was a little time-consuming but not very difficult. This was my second attempt and I am hoping to score at least a score of more than 600 marks," he said.

**Most of the students agreed that the toughest paper of them all was Physics**

Though some students said that the paper was of easy to moderate difficulty level and that they are expecting to score well, other students did not share a similar feeling.

Shruthi Singh, another medical aspirant who appeared for the exam on Sunday said, "The question paper was lengthy and also difficult for me. Physics was the hardest and the Chemistry part was also very time-consuming. I do not think I will be able to score well this year but I am hoping for the best."

The students also said that the question paper was easier than the NEET-2021 question paper. For the past month, students and parents have been demanding NTA and the union education minister postpone the exam to August or September, stating that many areas in the country are flooded and also the students did not get enough preparation time for the exam. However, the exam was conducted on the scheduled date.

Students who are appearing for both NEET and Common University Entrance Test (CUET) this year are also tense about their preparation for CUET. "I am putting my hopes on the CUET exam because my NEET exam did not go well but for CUET as well there is less than a month and I do not think I will be able to prepare well for that as well," said Shruthi Singh.

The students will be able to get a better analysis of their examination once the official answer key is announced by NTA soon.

# Phase II is on, fast forward to Phase III

## While second phase of Metro work will be fast-tracked to finish by 2024, third phase work will begin next year: CM

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Work on the third phase of Metro rail may start from next year. Chief Minister Basavaraj S Bommai announced on Sunday that the second phase of Metro work that was scheduled for completion in 2025 will be fast-tracked for completion by 2024 while the third phase are set to start from next year.

Phase three of Metro will connect the Outer Ring Road from Hebbal to JP Nagar with an interchange at Hebbal (with the Airport line), BEL Circle, Peenya, Kanteerava studio, Sumanahalli Cross, Nagarabavi Circle, Nayandanahalli (intersection with pink line), PES institute of Technology, Hosakerehalli Cross, Kamakya bus depot and JP Nagar. The second route has been planned to connect Magadi Road with Kadabagere with stations at Hosahalli, Vinayak Nagar, Sumanahali cross, Sunkadakatte, Herohalli and Byadarahalli.

Bommai had earlier announced another Metro line from Hebbal to Sarjapur with stations at Mehkri Circle, Basaveshwara Circle, Wilson Garden, NIMHANS, Dairy Circle, Suddguntepalya, St John's Hospital, Agara, Iblur, Bellandur gate, Carmelaram, Dommasandra and Sompura. The detailed project report for two projects are ready while the third one is yet to be done.

However, rail activists are suggesting that the government first prioritise completion of Phase two of Metro which is stuck at various phases. According to BMRCL's latest newsletter, Reach 1A (Baiyappanahalli to Seetharam Palya) is 97.74% complete while 99.61% of the work is done on the second leg (Seetharam Palya to Whitefield). BMRCL claims that this Whitefield Metro line will be open by this year and trials may start from September itself.

Officials aim for the Pink line Metro to connect from Kengeri to Whitefield. Once this line is operational, it can cater to 2.5 lakh commuters. However, as per the newsletter, the progress of the Kadugodi depot which is key to opening this line is going at a slow pace with only 44.59% of work completed. On the other end of this line, the Mysuru road to Pattanagere is 99.9% complete while Pattanagere to the last station of Challaghatta is 99.17% complete.

### Green line progress

Extension of the Green line is yet to gather pace. Reach 3C that connects Manjunath Nagar to BIEC is 81.3% complete while the other end (Reach 4B) that connects Konanakunte cross to Silk Institute is 96.34% complete. Only 10.36% of the Anjanapura depot is completed. As offices reopen, the demand the Metro to fast track this stretch which will help lakhs of commuters on a daily basis. A few stretches on this route have seen more than 90 pc completion. However, Kalena Agrahara to Tavarekere is 44 pc completed.

### New flyover

CM Bommai on Sunday laid the foundation stone for a new flyover that will eventually connect Outer Ring Road to Chord Road. A BBMP official said, "Apart from this flyover, we have got administrative approval for a series of grade separators connecting ORR to Chord road. Of the two proposals, one is to widen the road from Shiva temple to Chord road with three underpasses. The second proposal is to construct a 2-km-long elevated highway from Shiva temple to Chord Road. We are yet to take a call."

**Workers at a Metro rail construction site**

# Century Club president-secretary duo in trouble

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Century Club, one of the oldest clubs in the city, is once again is in the news for the wrong reasons. Century Club president and secretary have been directed by the Under Secretary of Cooperative Department to give a written explanation on the charges made by Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Fourth Region.

"It is hereby instructed to submit your written explanation on the charges made by Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies, 4th Region, Bangalore within 15 days from the date of receipt of this order addressing to Principal Secretary to Government, Cooperative Department, failing which it will be deemed that there is no explanation from your end and further action will be taken as per rule," said HC Radha, Under Secretary Government-3 (I/c), Cooperative Department.

An inquiry was conducted against Century Club on three charges made against it under Section 25 of the Karnataka Societies Registration Act. Two out of three charges are proven during the inquiry. The Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies, 4th Region, has recommended the government to appoint an administrative officer to the Century Club to monitor its activities.

Recalling how she was harassed by Secretary of Century Club, Chithkala Mallikarjun, Executive Committee member of the club, welcomed the plan to appoint an officer. Mallikarjun has lodged a complaint with Cubbon Park Police against Jaideep EG, Guruprasanna CN, and Sandeep Gangadhar. She stated that Jaideep had abused her.

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# School bus bummer: No space for anyone else

## School buses parked without authorisation squatting at roads, footpaths in city

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Pedestrians are facing trouble as footpaths and roadsides in many school zones of the city are being occupied by school vans and buses.

Residency road, which has multiple schools, is one of the worst affected areas.

A pedestrian told BM, "There is always so much traffic on this road and the footpaths are blocked by the buses. There is no space to walk. From morning to evening these buses are parked here without any regulation."

More than 500 m of the roadside has been blocked by parked school buses. They are also parked in front of a BMTC bus stop, causing problems for the commuters.

"The school buses take up most of the area. There is no space to sit and wait here at the bus stop. It's a busy road and it can be dangerous to walk on the road for children or the elderly. It is a public road and the schools haven't purchased it, so it should be available to the public. Traffic police are always present but they do not do anything about the school buses," said Shreya K, a college student living near Residency Road.

Other areas affected by the problem include Indiranagar, Domlur, JP Nagar. A resident of Indiranagar recently took to Twitter to post a video of school buses parked on the roadside at 12th Main, causing congestion in the area.

Ever since the schools reopened a few months back, traffic has already increased around the school zones.

Unauthorised parking of school buses on roadsides and footpaths are adding to congestion in the city

**"We are taking measures to reduce congestion in the city and also around the school zones** – Savitha S, DCP Traffic north bengaluru

Savitha S, DCP Traffic North Bengaluru, told BM that the traffic police are working with BBMP to minimise the cases of unauthorised parking.

"We are taking measures to reduce congestion in the city and also around the school zones. We have also sent notices to many schools and PUs and are promoting them to assign a designated parking area on their own premises in order to decongest the roads and footpaths. There is a penalty for unauthorised parking on footpaths in Bengaluru," she said.

"There will be some rush around the school zones as many people come and park their vehicles temporarily while dropping their children off, but we are working on regulating the parking for school vans and buses," she added.

According to the Traffic Index Report, Bengaluru is among the most traffic-hit Indian cities. Recently, it was also ranked among the top 10 most congested cities in the world.

Officials from Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), city police, and traffic police have started to discuss measures to decongest the roads.

# Everybody wants a piece of this lake

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Earlier this year, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) announced the rejuvenation of Gangashetty Lake in K R Puram. Officials assured that the waterbody would be revived. However, one of the oldest lakes of Bengaluru is not out of the woods yet.

Residents of the area claim that the water body continues to face the challenge of encroachment and garbage dumping.

"The lake is public property. A marketing office has been put by a builder in the lake area recently. We have reached out to multiple officials regarding the same, but no action has been taken. The builder's office is encroaching the lake area as per an official document issued by the Tehsildar's office a few years back," said Lakshman L, a resident of K R Puram.

Locals say that BBMP officials are guilty of looking the other way while encroachers go about their business.

"The builder's marketing office has been put up exactly opposite a government office near the lake.

Gangashetty Lake is encroached on by private and government entities

This makeshift office has been created on the lake land and the officials are aware of the situation," said another resident of the area.

The Tahsildar of Bengaluru East had issued a public statement inviting the residents of K R Puram to participate in a survey in February 2021. The survey was finally conducted a couple of months ago. However, the locals alleged that the survey report of the lake area and the boundary has not been made public.

Residents also say revival work has begun without any evictions and is going slow.

According to an official from the revenue department, Government of Karnataka, the lake was surveyed a couple of months ago in presence of a BDA engineer.

Post the survey, a sketch was prepared and submitted to the BBMP and Bangalore Metropolitan Task Force (BMTF).

"The total area of the lake should be 21 acres and 38 guntas. However, around six acres out of this land has been encroached. We have submitted the report to BMTF and BBMP. The next steps are to be taken by BBMP," said an official from the revenue department.

However, according to a BBMP official, the fund for rejuvenation was issued after marking the lake boundary based on the recent lake survey and there are no encroachments recorded.

"The marketing office by the builder is not in the lake area as per the lake survey document. So, is the case with BBMP's garbage vehicles parked on the other side of the lake. The residents should come up with the land record officer, and if the official documents show that these areas belong to the lake, we will surely take action," said the official.

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### Unlawful ad?

**Cox Town**

There is an illegal flex near Cox Town, AKS Convention Hall.

### Unauthorised digging

**Victoria Layout**

Jio's team has been digging across Victoria Layout and Palm Grove Road. Work orders are not being shown to residents.

### Abandoned trolley

**Parvati Nagar**

A trolley has been parked for months opposite Big Day, Parvati Nagar, Medahalli area.

# Urban wildlife rescue gets new set of wheels

## Ambulance with modern equipment to help animals in distress in Yelahanka; will help rescue trapped birds

The ambulance will have rescue kits, hand and head torches, nets, snake bags etc

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A brand new ambulance with modernized animal rescue equipment is going to be added to the fleet of infrastructure meant for the urban wildlife rescue in Yelahanka. It will be run by People for Animals (PfA) Hospital headquartered in Uttarahalli, a western suburb of Bengaluru.

"We have been getting a lot of animal rescue calls in Yelahanka and its surroundings where there are a lot of lakes and green vegetation including a hub for urban wildlife at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Gandhi Krishi Vignan Kendra, GKVK, on Bellary Road," said the General Manager/Chief veterinary surgeon Colonel Dr Navaz Sharif.

Earlier, they had to dispatch our rescue team all the way from Kengeri, Uttarahalli Main Road towards Yelahanka for the rescue of an animal in distress. This would easily be around 44 km via the NH-48 Ring-Road Highway or a couple of km less if one takes the Dr Puneeth Rajkumar Road. With the city's traffic, it would take at least an hour and 15 minutes to reach the destination (Yelahanka), and by then the rescue volunteers would not be sure as to what happened to the animal in distress.

Adding more to the animal rescuer's woes, they had to rope in the Fire and Emergency Services' fire-trucks and other equipment like their ladders to scale up trees and buildings to rescue trapped animals and birds, but now with this new ambulance, there is no need for that.

A software engineer and a head of an IT firm, Rajasekhar Halaharvi (51), a resident of Yelahanka decided to do his bit for the animal rescue services. He observed that an ambulance took around four hours to arrive at the place where the animal was in distress. "Three months ago, a monkey had fallen from our apartment and I had called in for animal rescue and they took nearly four hours to reach, but by then the monkey died. Later I found that another macaque got electrocuted and was sitting still at a place where again I had called in for an animal rescue ambulance," Halaharvi said. He then decided to donate some money and purchase an animal ambulance that would be stationed at his place in Yelahanka that would go for animal rescuing operations in and around that place.

He contacted the general manager of PfA and offered to donate Rs 8 lakh for purchasing an ambulance that will be exclusively used for the rescue of urban wildlife and other animals in distress. And in no time, a Maruti Eco was purchased for Rs 6 lakh and the new van was fabricated as an animal ambulance with rescue equipment worth Rs 2 lakh. A driver and a rescue volunteer were also appointed by the PfA.

> **"This is just the start, and I am looking forward to expanding the presence of these animal ambulances across Bengaluru, let us see how it goes**
>
> –Rajasekhar Halaharvi, software engineer

### No strings attached

The highlight of the ambulance was that it carries a unique equipment. It is a metal pipe around 10 to 12 feet in height, and which can go up to a height of 100 to 120 feet. This is single-man operable equipment, costing around Rs 1.2 lakh, and primarily used for rescuing birds, reptiles or smaller animals that are entangled in manja threads on trees.

"Each digit of this metal pipe-arm gets interlocked as it goes up in height and it has a maze atop of it which can be rotated by the operator standing down so that the manja thread gets broken and the rescued bird is trapped in the maze of the equipment. Once the bird is rescued from the entanglement, each digit unlocks itself as it comes down along with the rescued bird safe in the maze. This equipment has to be carried in a four-wheeler which is about 10-12 feet in height when it unlocks and comes down to its regular size," said veterinary surgeon Dr Sharif.

Earlier, the rescue volunteers had to depend on fire trucks and their ladders to reach heights, but now that's no more needed, the doctor added. Along with this equipment, there are also other basic rescue kits, hand torch, head torch, snake tongs, snake bags, animal restraint cages, nets etc.

"This is just a start, and I am looking forward to expanding the presence of animal ambulances across Bengaluru, and let's see how it goes," said Halaharvi. Sharif from PfA said they want to have similar ambulances in Electronic City, Bannerghatta and other places in Bengaluru.

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PAGE 10 **ALL THAT CHARM!** It was hard to pretend that I didn't like Dhanush because he is so charming: Ryan

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# Just white-topped Sampige Road dug up again

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

white-topping Sampige Road. The BBMP has to spend money to relay the concrete blocks or any other alternative material," said Kiran D, a resident.

Anoop Iyengar, a resident, criticised the BBMP for lack of proper planning; he said the civic body spent more than Rs 15 crore for white-topping the road a few months ago. "It is quite shocking to see the digging of a road that was white-topped a few months ago. Who is responsible for wasting tax-payers' money? I do not know what material the contractor will use to fill the portion of the road that was cut to strengthen a drain," said Iyengar.

Lakshmikanth Rao, an advocate who's also an Aam Aadmi Party activist termed white-topping of Sampige Road as nothing but an act to pocket taxpayers' money. He said it has become a habit for the BBMP engineers and elected representatives to select roads that are in good condition for white-topping or asphalting.

"The objective of BBMP engineers and elected representatives is to pocket as much money as they can. They are not bothered to ensure roads are in a good condition," said Rao.

Meanwhile, traders and businessmen along Sampige Road complained that the development of footpaths on either side of the road remains incomplete causing inconvenience to them and the customers who frequent the area.

"We are not in a position to pressurise the contractor to complete the pending works. The contractor engaged workers as per his whim and never bothered to complete the pending sections," said a businessman on the condition of anonymity, adding that the BBMP should and must take measures to utilise taxpayer's money prudently.

Meanwhile, BBMP assistant engineer (road infrastructure) Geetha was not available for comment when contacted by Bangalore Mirror.


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**I,** Prashantha Babu Rajshekar S/O, Rajshekar K T R/o No 219,3rd Block,3rd Stage,2nd E Cross, Basaveshwaranagar,woc Road, Bengaluru 560079,ka have changed my name to Prashanth Babu Rajshekar for all purposes.

**I,** Kalpesh Laxmidas Dalal R/o #307, Chitrakutscion Apartment, Byrasandra,cv Raman, Bangalore-560093 have changed my minor daughter's name from Kiyara Dalal to Kiyara Kalpesh Dalal

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# Deaths by suicide on the rise

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

financial tensions and job insecurities are higher in Bengaluru. Traffic is a unique stress factor. Many face anger and frustration due to their daily commute. Bengaluru is also an expensive city; a few of my patients have reported their difficulty in maintaining a good lifestyle with limited income," said Dr Pallavi Joshi, consultant psychiatrist, Manipal Hospital.

A lion's share of the city's population migrated from other cities; there is a lack of family support. Experts said constant pressure from parents to excel in studies or career adds to the stress, causing depression.

"A good chunk of the population in the city lacks family support as they have migrated. The failure to achieve a desired standard of living and the shame associated with it clubbed with lack of family support might be some of the reasons. Many of my patients have spoken about stress owing to the high expectations from parents," said Madhumita Bhattacharya, psychologist, Apollo Medical Centre.

Bengaluru also recorded as many as 21 suicides by children below 14 years of age. Experts said children are often unable to see other better-coping strategies; it is an impulsive decision to find a permanent solution.

"The most common risk factors among children include bullying, psychiatric illnesses, abuse, family history, substance abuse and failure in examinations. Unnoticed behavioural changes

and depression may turn into impulsive suicidal tendencies. The lack of mental health awareness and stigma towards seeking professional help are some other reasons. Poor relationship with parents and their unrealistic expectations play a major role," said Dr Shilpi Saraswat, clinical psychologist, Sakra World Hospital.

According to mental healthcare professionals, lifestyle changes with better coping mechanisms can help prevent depression and subsequent suicidal tendencies. Simple changes like getting a good night's sleep, nutritious food, and exercise reduce stress.

"If one finds day-to-day activities becoming difficult due to stress that lasts for at least two weeks, they should talk to a psychiatrist. Suicidal thoughts warrant immediate consultation with a mental health expert," said Dr Joshi.

# Coordinated, we fight to win covid battle

Karnataka's efforts in combating the covid virus were the result of a government-citizen partnership enabling its multi-layered genomic and surveillance efforts.

At an event applauding the efforts of public enterprises in providing covid-related services, Minister of HE, IT & BT, Govt of Karnataka, Dr Ashwath Narayan CN said on Sunday, "Due to the commendable efforts of biotechnologists and microbiologists, we were able to identify the different variants of the virus and take immediate action. The behaviour of the virus was different in each area and we did not know bout the variants. The government was mostly firefighting and was not aware of the variants.

When these people approached me as the chairman of the Covid subcommittee immediately made arrangements for these institutions to get samples. The knowledge base from the research has enabled us to become emergency-prepared all along."

BBMP Chief Health Officer AS Balasundar said that as the brutal second wave began to rage, early detection of the Omicron variant helped the Palike to be well-prepared promptly.

Through regular genomic sequencing, Karnataka was able to see the patterns of the spread of the different virus variants on par with other countries.

Prof. Rajesh Sundaresan, IISc, Professor who helped extensively to predict the spread of covid through modelling approaches coupled with serosurveys said the surveys helped them track the numbers of infections that occurred across time, space and population strata. "Karnataka launched the first state-wide survey using the sentinel approach. Leveraging volunteer help from the AIDS Prevention units and TB surveillance units, the survey was conducted across 290 centres," he said.

**-Melvin Mathew**

# Remembering the Maharaja who was a maverick, a genius

Sridhar.Vivan@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

As we approach India's 75th year of independence, the contributions of Mysuru's Maharajas continue to be remembered even today. July 18 marks the 103rd birth anniversary of a progressive king Jaychamarajendra Wadiyar - the last official Maharaja of Mysore kingdom who was also instrumental in the development of Namma Bengaluru. Among his many contributions is the birth of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, says Dr Deepti Navaratna, a classical dancer and neuroscientist and author of The Maverick Maharaja.

She told BM, "It takes a fierce nationalist and a shrewd visionary to capture several vested interests into one that benefits the country. William Douglas Pawley was a US ambassador, noted businessman, and part of the First American Volunteer Group (AVG) of the Chinese Air Force deployed to bomb Japan and defend China. Assembling aircrafts for combat in World War II and edging out of the Japanese occupation of China, he was looking for a home base in India. Parallely, Walchand Hirachand, an entrepreneur, was looking to expand his company's offerings. Wadiyar, 21, was crowned King of Mysore. He saw this opportunity to lay the runway for a public sector enterprise that would pioneer aerospace research and manufacturing in India. Hindustan Aircraft Limited (HAL) was thus born in 1940, interestingly conspired mid-air on a flight back from America."

Today, when we think of planned localities, the name of Jayanagar strikes first. Deepti said Jayanagar was named after Wadiyar and inaugurated in August 1948 by then Governor General of India, C Rajagopalachari.

PICS: DEEPTI NAVARATNA

## Contributions to IISc

"Mysore and other princely states provided military manpower and resources to the war. Institutes such as IISc focussed on applied research in manufacturing items for military and industrial use. Sir M Visvesvaraya, the President of IISc's Court from 1938 to 1947, saw the war as an opportunity to do just that. After a visit by Wadiyar to the Department of Electrical Technology, grants to IISc were increased from the Mysore government and the governments of Bombay, Hyderabad, and even the British government of India," said Deepti.

## Mysore Dakota

Old-timers of Mysore recollect the true majesty of Wadiyar's 'Mysore Dakota', which was always 'flying high' after India's Independence.

"After the end of World War II, surplus Dakota DC-3 planes were available for sale in India. The Hindustan Aircraft Company, co-owned by the Mysore government, was servicing these 'workhorses of the air'. These were converted into civilian aircrafts - 21-seater passenger planes - one of which was acquired by Wadiyar as his first magic carpet in 1946. The Mysore Dakota was extensively used during the nation-building efforts by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Pandit Nehru and other Indian leaders," she said.

## National TB Institute

Today, one of the prominent landmarks in the city is the National Tuberculosis Institute on Bellary Road. Avalon that was originally the residence of Wadiyar's sister was given away to the nation for a much deserving cause to set up the institute, Deepti writes.

## The CFTRI

India was facing famine after famine, the Great Bengal famine being the worst recorded one. This battle for food perhaps triggered the idea of starting a research centre that could look into saving, preserving, packaging, and storing grain samples for posterity. Thus, the Central Food Technology Research Institute (CFTRI) was born in Mysore. Wadiyar donated the very charming Cheluvamba Mansion, originally constructed by Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV for the third Princess of Mysore—Cheluvajammanni—to this cause.

## Music and reign

Wadiyar had composed 108 Carnatic kritis on the Devi, of which 97 compositions were recovered.

Wadiyar ascended the throne on September 8 1940. His reign, though short, is significant. "He held Mysore together through the most difficult decade, 1940–50. First, the war-ravaged British paramountcy was failing in India, British provinces after World War I suffered from excessive taxation and lack of welfare measures.

Deepti, who is currently the TV Raman Pai Chair Professor at the National Institute for Advanced Studies, says her attempt was to showcase the many truths and beauties of the Mysorean Legacy at large.

*(To read about the fascinating life, log on to www.bangaloremirror.com)*

# Supernatural gallops home to wear Betway Derby sash

Ikram Khan
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru: You got to doff your hat to champion trainer Pesi Shroff. The top gun dominated the Derby weekend, first winning the plum on Faith on Derby eve and back on D-day, the top pro landed the Derby riches on Supernatural.

The two star fillies, Success from Vijay Singh's yard and local mainhope Philosophy from the stables of Padmanabhan garnered the maximum support in the mega event, while Supernatural after his dismal effort in the Colts Championship Stakes was offered at (10/1) in the betting ring. Leading pro Trevor Patel, who had partnered the colt in his below par last effort appeared relaxed and quietly confident that the bred in the purple son of Multidimensional from the Usha Stud farm would test the best after he had made the required improvement in his final preparation for the champion event.

After Prague and Cyrenius set a decent pace all through the backstretch in the mile-and-quarter classic journey followed by Success, Trevor chose to play the waiting game, settling Supernatural in the rear group behind Philosophy.

The two leaders shot their bolt at the top of the straight and at this juncture Success streaked ahead, but the Kolkata hopeful, it was clear had no gas in the tank to make a race of it. At this juncture Trevor setalight Supernatural and Parmar put the Colts Championship winner Mojito in top gear and it was Supernatural who stormed through to assume command and put the issue beyond doubt in the final furlong.

Stablemate King's Ransom who suffered interference early on in the big event finished on purposefully at end to gain the runner-up berth, making it a fine 1-2 for Shirkes and Pesi, while Ameeta Mehra would love to take a piece of track home, Mojita providing the top breeder a big reason to smile, finishing third to provide a dream result, 1-2-3 for the Usha Stud Farm.

Delighted with the result, Pesi Shroff while lauding the effort of Trevor pointed out that team work just did the trick. "I was positive that Supernatural and King's Ransom would display their true potential in their effort to wear the Derby sash taking into account that the duo had improved most and were raring to go in the big one.

Both my horses had the required potential to crack the pot of gold and join the elite Derby winners' list and I'm happy they justified my confidence in their abilities," said Pesi delighted with the fantastic result, his team obtained on the D-day.

For Trevor and Pesi Shroff, BTC is proving to be a happy hunting ground, the trainer and jockey combined successfully to win the winter Derby by a `street' on Zuccarelli earlier this year on Republic Day. Trevor later booted home the well supported Own Legacy in the final event to sign off in style.

Leading pro Akshay Kumar and Irfan Ghatala shared the professional honours with Trevor recording a double apiece on a day only two favourites, both from Irfan Ghatala's yard, Sucre and Knight Envied nailed bold colours to the mast in the classic eight-event competitive card.

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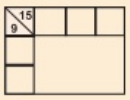
## SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

Two numbers are known as first number and second number. 20% of the first number is 9 more than 30% of second number. The difference of two numbers is x more than the half of second number. x will be

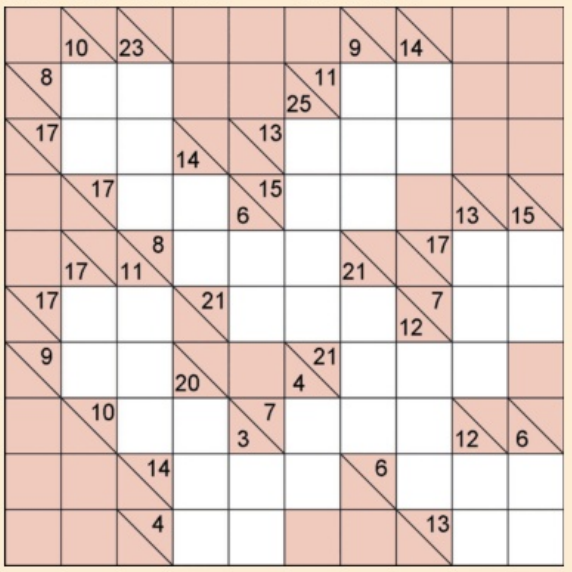
## Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

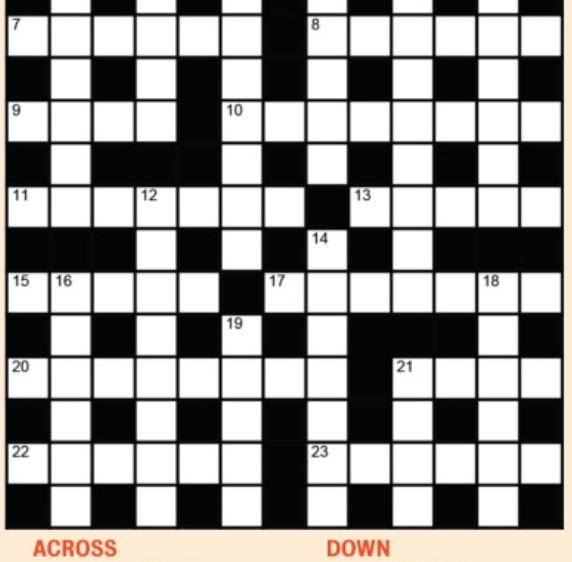



for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



## Quick



**ACROSS**

7 Albanian capital (6)
8 Tourist destination where R K Narayanan's Malgudi Days was filmed (6)
9 Zest (colloq.). (4)
10 Move to another position (8)
11 Get better (7)
13 Wash; clean (5)
15 Distance downwards (5)
17 Apathy, grogginess or ennui (7)
20 Great Sanskrit poet of Meghadoot and Raghuvamsa (8)
21 Flake off (4)
22 Turn upside down (6)
23 A hall for public lectures (6)

**DOWN**

1 Sacred or holy (6)
2 Strike or shut noisily (4)
3 Seats on horses (7)
4 Outmoded (5)
5 Bossing around (8)
6 Counting frame (6)
12 Summarizes, synopsizes or sketches (8)
14 Handcuff (7)
16 Seinfeld regular (6)
18 Develop, unseal (4,2)
19 Ex ___ : one sided, in legal words? (5)
21 Tempo (4)

## Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

**Today's CLUE: B EQUALS G**

HIS FK OIUS VYMM AO TPNI IKPT HIUD DKOIADB QKWUN?

## Linemaro

Do you have a watch? I want to know how long it took for me to fall in love with you

## Mindchow

If a man does his best, what else is there?

## Joke of the day

I was thinking of becoming a doctor. I have the handwriting for it

## Loop

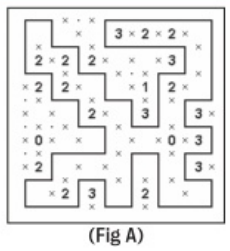
### Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

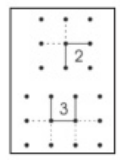
### How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

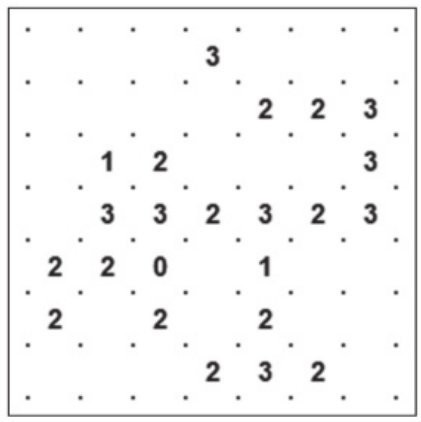
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



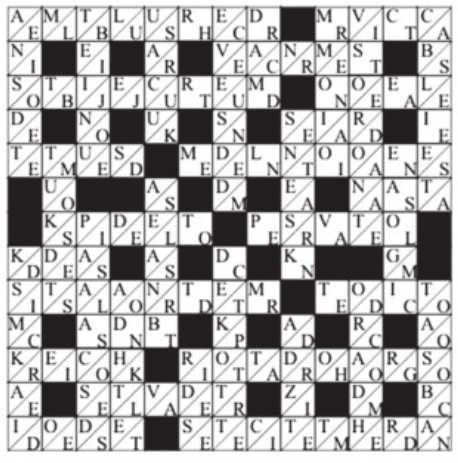
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



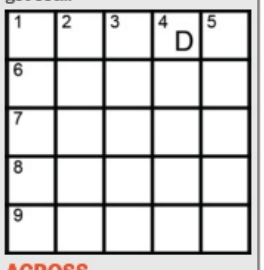
## Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

## Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...




**ACROSS**

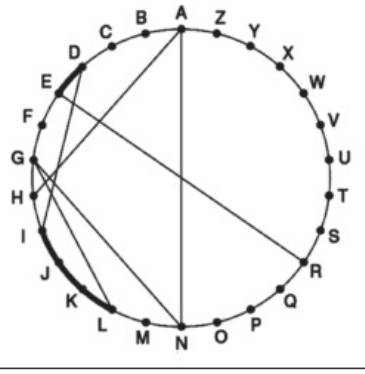
1 SS cad; 6 Comae; 7 Lou in; 8 Ousel; 9 Sperm

**DOWN**

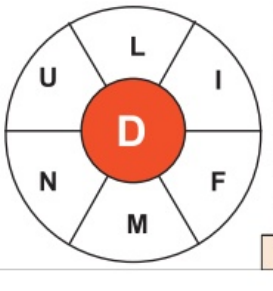
1 L cups; 2 Ocean; 3 Ma our; 4 Dimes; 5 Sloes

## Mensapuzzle

Find two words (4, 6) in this diagram. Letters are traced across the circle by chords. If the next letter is four letters or less away it will be found by tracing around the circumference. Clue: free flight.




## Bull's eye




How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

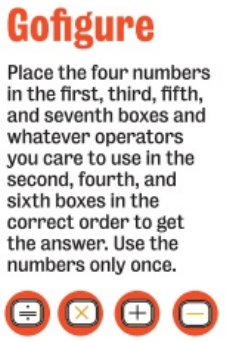
## SudokuChallenge

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | | | 9 | | 4 | | | 7 |
| | | 3 | | | | 2 | | |
| | 2 | | 6 | | 7 | | 5 | |
| 2 | | | 8 | 4 | 3 | | | 5 |
| | | 5 | | | | 8 | | |
| 7 | | | 1 | 9 | 5 | | | 3 |
| | 3 | | 7 | | 2 | | 8 | |
| | | 7 | | | | 6 | | |
| 5 | | | 4 | | 9 | | | 1 |

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.




## Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

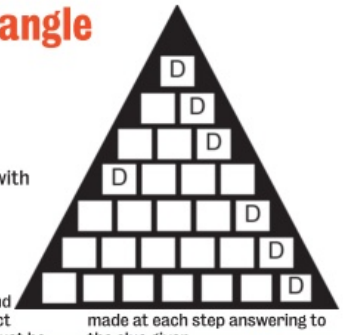
**Differences:** 1. Tie is different. 2. Hat is smaller. 3. Handle is added to purse. 4. Window is not as wide. 5. Man has more hair. 6. Arm is longer.

## Riddler

For Mother's Day, the group decides to take a family photo. In the photo there are: One grandfather, one grandmother, two fathers, two mothers, six children, four grandchildren, two brothers, two sisters, three sons, three daughters, one father-in-law, one mother-in-law, one daughter-in-law. That must a total of 29 people, but no! Question: What is the fewest number of people that could have been in the photo?

## Alpha triangle

1 Five hundred
2 Ego's partner?
3 Free (of)
4 Small knife
5 Vexed
6 Took a chance
7 Avoided dealing with

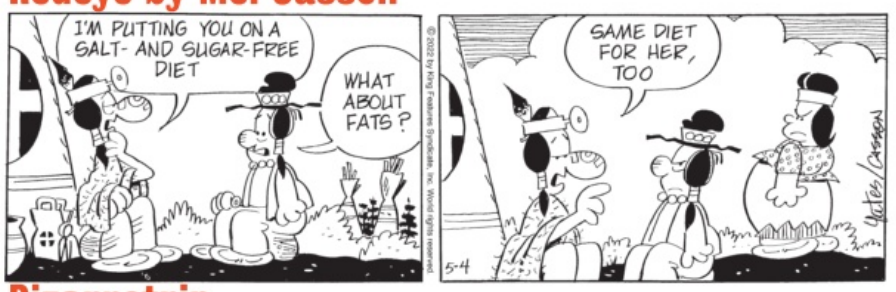



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.


DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

# COMICS

## Redeye by Mel Casson

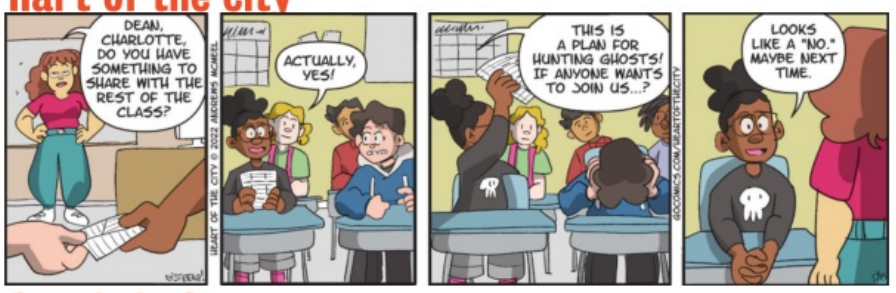



## Bizarrotrip

Dist. by King Features
Wayno & Piraro 5-14-22
The only thing worse than bagpipes is kids learning to play bagpipes.
BOY SCOTS
©2022 Bizarro Studios
BIZARRO.COM

## Diamond Lil

## Hart of the city


DEAN, CHARLOTTE, DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE WITH THE REST OF THE CLASS?
ACTUALLY, YES!
THIS IS A PLAN FOR HUNTING GHOSTS! IF ANYONE WANTS TO JOIN US...?
LOOKS LIKE A "NO." MAYBE NEXT TIME.
HART OF THE CITY © 2022 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@DOONICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

## Crankshaft

NASA OFFICIALS APPEAR TO BELIEVE THAT THE MYSTERIOUS GRILL IN OUTER SPACE MAY HAVE BEEN LAUNCHED FOUR YEARS AGO FROM THE BACKYARD OF A CENTERVILLE RESIDENT NAMED ED CRANKSHAFT...
5-11
BATIUK & DAVIS

## Mutts

# WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

**Aries** Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may have peace of mind. You can plan to invest some capital, which may increase liquidity in your business. Your earnings may boost your financial health. You might enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which will enhance harmony in the family life. Singles are likely to find a suitable match. Lovebirds can decide to get married. Students will be blessed.

**Taurus** Apr 21 – May 20
You may be very happy today and your losses will convert to profits. Your seniors may be happy and appreciate your work. You are likely to have some changes in your position or responsibilities at work in terms of promotions. Your opponents and hidden enemies may be under control now. Singles and lovebirds can make important decisions in terms of marriage with the help of relatives or friends.

**Gemini** May 21 – Jun 21
Today you are blessed by the moon, which may make you happy. Last week's crunches are now over. You should get reciprocation of your hard work. With the help of your juniors, you may be able to re-initiate postponed projects. There are some gains in your business, which may boost your finances.

**Cancer** Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may feel dull due to some health issues. You are advised to postpone making investments in the business. It is also advised not to start a new venture. You are likely to face losses in business. Your gains are likely to convert to losses.

**Leo** Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you may get some business orders which may be profitable in the near future. You can implement some new ideas on the work front. New partnerships could come into play. You are likely to be busy with work, making yourself mentally tired. It can impact your domestic life.

**Virgo** Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you will perform well at your job. Your colleagues will cooperate with you. You may be able to complete your postponed projects on time. You may lend money for investment purposes. Jobseekers may find a new job. There will be positive news for those affected by health issues.

**Libra** Sep 24 – Oct 22
Situations are under control now and people around you will be responsive again. You are advised not to take a life as a burden. Sustain yourself in unavoidable situations. You may face some difficulties with easy gains. Help from elders can help you come out from this situation. Your confusion about choosing targets may now be over.

**Scorpio** Oct 23 – Nov 22
You could leave tasks incomplete today. You may be a victim of mood swings and your patience may be tested many times. Silly mistakes can confuse you at work. Lovebirds can find themselves to be confused in terms of feelings. High expectations may impact your emotional attachment with your spouse. You are advised to take care of your parents. Students may lose their concentration.

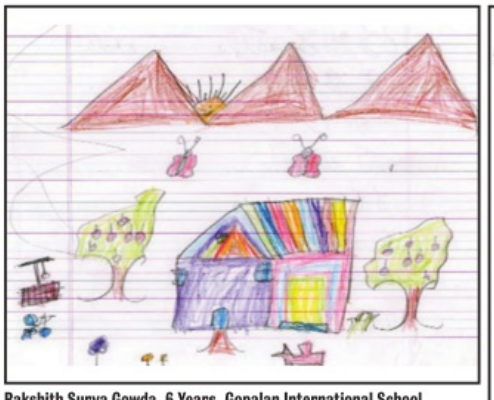
**Sagittarius** Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you will be glad. You will be able to maintain a balance between your earnings and expenditure, which will boost your finances. Your network will help you to implement your plans. Your siblings and subordinate staff will be more helpful today. You may plan to visit your elders or a spiritual place.

**Capricorn** Dec 23 – Jan 20
Your energy levels will be high today, making you happy, optimistic, and eager to fulfil your desires with the help of hard work. You may plan to go out with friends and family to share your happiness. Students will hear good news in terms of academics.

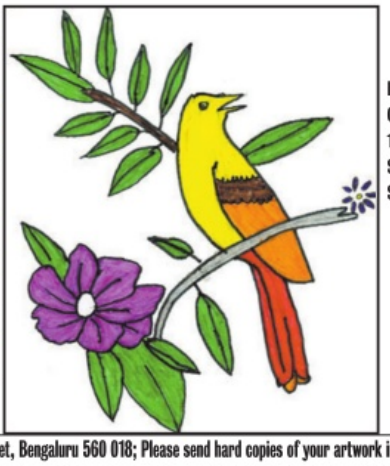
**Aquarius** Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, until late afternoon, your day may not be good, and you may feel unhappy or nervous. However, at noon you will be happier. Your internal vitality will boost your self-confidence. You should avoid carelessness in making decisions in terms of finances, work, and studies. Sometimes, you may face self-respect issues with your spouse. Keep patience to avoid turning happy moments sour. Lovebirds may plan for short trips.

**Pisces** Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today your tendency to overspend will affect your savings. You should be careful while expressing yourself at work and on the domestic front as well. Avoid lending money. You can postpone making important decisions in real estate and related fronts. Avoid neglecting your responsibilities.

## KIDZONE



Rakshith Surya Gowda, 6 Years, Gopalan International School



Keerthan Gowda, 11 Years, SES English School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

## SOLUTIONS

**SOLVE IN 1M**
Let first number A and second number B then according to given condition
2(A+B) = 90 + 38
2A = 90 + 38
A = 45 + B/2
So x = 45

**QUOTE UNCODE**
Why do they call it rush hour when nothing moves?

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | C | A | D | S | |
| C | A | M | E | O | |
| U | N | O | I | L | |
| L | O | U | S | E | |
| P | E | R | M | S | |

**FAST FIVE**

**BULL'S EYE**
find, fluid, fund, mild, mind, MINDFUL

**STRIKE OUT**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | M | B | U | S | H | E | D | M | I | C | A | | | |
| N | I | | A | V | A | N | E | S | | B | | | | |
| O | B | J | E | C | T | E | D | | N | O | E | L | | |
| D | O | | K | | N | | S | A | D | | E | | | |
| E | M | U | S | | M | E | N | T | I | O | N | S | | |
| | U | | S | | D | | A | | N | A | T | | | |
| I | S | L | A | N | D | E | R | | R | E | D | I | T | |
| K | E | A | | A | | D | | K | | M | | | | |
| S | P | E | L | T | | E | R | A | T | O | | | | |
| C | A | N | T | | P | | A | | R | | O | | | |
| K | I | C | K | | R | O | A | D | H | O | G | S | | |
| I | N | V | E | R | T | | L | Y | C | E | U | M | | |
| E | | E | | T | | E | | R | | A | | | | |
| D | O | S | E | | E | T | C | E | T | E | R | A | | |

**QUICK**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | B | S | | P | | B | | A | | | | | | |
| T | I | R | A | N | A | | A | G | U | M | B | E | | |
| V | | N | | D | | S | | L | Y | C | E | U | M | |
| Z | I | N | G | | D | I | S | P | L | A | C | E | | |
| | N | | L | | E | | Y | | U | | | | | |
| R | E | C | O | V | E | R | | R | I | N | S | E | | |
| | U | | S | | M | | N | | | | | | | |
| D | E | P | T | H | | L | A | N | G | U | O | R | | |
| | L | | P | | N | | | | | | P | | | |
| K | A | L | I | D | A | S | A | | P | E | E | L | | |
| I | N | | R | O | A | D | H | O | G | S | | | | |
| K | I | C | K | | R | O | A | D | H | O | G | S | | |
| E | | E | | R | | Z | | M | | | | C | | |
| K | E | A | | A | | D | | K | | M | | | | |
| I | S | L | A | N | D | E | R | | E | D | I | T | | |
| C | A | N | T | | P | | A | | R | | O | | | |
| K | I | C | K | | R | O | A | D | H | O | G | S | | |
| I | N | V | E | R | T | | L | Y | C | E | U | M | | |
| E | | E | | T | | E | | R | | A | | | | |

**MENSA PUZZLE**
HANG GLIDER;

**RIDDLER**
9 people (2 grandparents, a son, and a daughter, a son, and his wife, and 4 grandchildren)

**SUDOKU**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 1 |
| 4 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 2 |
| 6 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 4 |
| 7 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| 2 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 5 |
| 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 8 |
| 9 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| 8 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 7 |

**ALPHA TRIANGLE**
D, Id, Rid, Dirk, Irked, Risked, Shirked.

**GO FIGURE**
Easy
7 + 5 x 1 + 4 = 16
Medium
2 x 7 – 8 x 6 = 36
Hard
4 – 7 – 2 + 9 = 4

**LOOP**

**KAKURO**

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**# That don't impress Elsa much**
Actor Chris Hemsworth has revealed that his wife Elsa Pataky was not impressed with his jacked physique in 'Thor: Love and Thunder'

BangaloreMirror | 10
Monday, July 18, 2022
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# All that charm!

## It was hard to pretend that I didn't like Dhanush because he is so charming: Ryan

Ryan Gosling is a man on a mission - to survive - in Russo Brothers' action-adventure 'The Gray Man'.

Starring in the lead role as CIA operative Court Gentry, aka, Sierra Six, the film sees the 'La La Land' actor going up against some of the world's deadliest assassins, one of whom is played by Indian superstar Dhanush. In a roundtable chat with ETimes, Ryan seemed visibly blown away and in awe of his Indian co-star, enough to even disclose his interest to star in a desi movie with Dhanush.

As revealed in the teaser and trailer, Dhanush will be seen unleashing his 'lethal force' on Ryan in the film. The two throw quite a few kicks and punches at each other. When asked about filming their intense action scenes, Ryan gushed, "Dhanush has an incredible screen presence and he is such a lovely person to be around. It was hard to pretend that I didn't like him because he is so charming. I have so much respect for his work ethic. He is so precise and (he) never made a mistake."

In fact, Ryan loved his scenes with Dhanush so much that he can't wait for round two, but this time, preferably where they aren't at each other's throats.

"He is a special actor and I hope one day I get to work with him where we're not trying to kill each other. Hopefully, it will be in India," he said and added, "If anyone can hook that up, I'm in!"

In case Bollywood's filmmakers are reading, you know whom to call.

In another panel, Dhanush, who was taking questions from the media with his directors Joe and Anthony Russo, shared his mutual fondness for Gosling. Speaking about his camaraderie with his co-stars including Chris Evans, Dhanush said during the round table discussion, "I had very little work with Chris so I didn't get to spend much time with him. But, I had a lot of working days with Ryan. He was very kind, supporting and encouraging. He would often come to me and check with me how my family and friends are doing during the Covid times. I will never forget that."

-ETimes

# Unabashedly glam

More than filmmakers, actor Disha Patani says it is the audience that perceives her as a diva, a label she is "grateful" for. According to the actor, she has played glamorous characters in only two films 'Malang' and 'Radhe: Your Most Wanted Bhai'.

"It is a perception and I am grateful that I have some sort of identity. There is nothing negative about it. To be known for anything is big. I see people coming to me and offering me different stuff.

"More than filmmakers, the audiences have that perception. Filmmakers are open to artistes doing different things. They think it is better if the artiste comes out of their comfort zone," Patani told the media source.

The Bareilly-born actor said her upcoming films will present a new aspect of her personality. She will next be seen in 'Ek Villain Returns'.

Patani also has Sidharth Malhotra-led actioner 'Yodha', Prabhas' sci-fi film 'Project K' and 'KTina', in which she will play a small-town Punjabi woman, in the pipeline. "I get bored easily. I can't keep repeating the same parts. All these films are different from each other. I hope people see me in a different way through these films," she added.

In 'Ek Villain Returns', she plays Rasika, a Marathi woman who believes 'greed is good'. "My character is greedy, she wants certain things in life and she will do anything to get it. She uses men as a tool to get what she wants."

Patani, 30, said she is a director's actor and for 'Ek Villain Returns', she surrendered to Mohit Suri's vision. "I follow the instructions of the director. For this film and character, I had to work a bit on the Marathi dialect and on the transition of the character, which was a bit difficult," she added. -PTI

# Cheerleader John

Bollywood action star John Abraham has cheered for Genelia Deshmukh as she is on a six week fitness journey.

Genelia is in her fourth week and has put out a vlog. But there's a twist in the new week, she's stepping out of her city and comfort zone.

"As days are passing I'm of course feeling better, stronger and more inclined but since I had to leave town for work, that has slightly bummed me," the actress.

She added: "Missing family and my trainers and my gym back home. Had for a moment slowed my momentum but a quick chat from loved ones made me bounce back. After all, where there's a will there's a way."

She's got the look
Nine times Rashmika Mandanna stole hearts with her outstanding style
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